

provide the tools and focus for Federal, State, tribal and local governments to address the diverse impacts and costs caused by drought.

Second, the bill will improve the delivery of Federal drought programs. To ensure improved program delivery, integration and leadership, the National Drought Preparedness Act establishes the National Drought Council under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Council will provide the coordinating and integrating function for the more than 80 federal drought programs currently in existence.

Third, the bill establishes new tools for drought preparedness planning. Building on current water policy, the Drought Council will assist states, local governments, tribes, and other entities in the development and implementation of drought preparedness plans. The bill does not mandate state and local planning, but is intended to facilitate the development and implementation of drought plans through the establishment of a Drought Assistance Fund. Importantly, the bill also preserves state authority over water allocation.

Fourth, the bill improves our forecasting and monitoring abilities. Under our legislation, the Drought Council will facilitate the development of the National Integrated Drought Information System in order to improve the characterization of current drought conditions and the forecasting of future droughts, as well as provide a better basis to trigger federal drought assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the creation of a coordinated and comprehensive National Drought Council will provide efficient and time sensitive coordination between federal agencies in preparing for and responding to droughts, as well as assisting Congress in identifying our immediate and long term needs in providing drought relief.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues and moving this bill forward. Americans are hurting throughout this country today because of water shortages and prolonged droughts. Congress must act immediately, and time is of the essence.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I urge the House leadership to bring this bill to the floor for its swift consideration.

# EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, the \$81 billion that the president is requesting for the war in Iraq is his 3rd request for emergency spending—and still there is no exit strategy and no plan for success in Iraq. This is a war that was sold to the American people and Members of Congress under false pretenses,

and the American people cannot continue to fund indefinitely this administration's gross incompetence, particularly without any real oversight tied to it. The administration is rapidly bankrupting this country for this war, while starving our most important priorities here at home, such as homeland security, social security and education. The administration has raised the debt ceiling three times to a record \$7.6 trillion, grown the largest budget deficit in our history, \$412 billion last year, and expanded a record trade deficit of \$619 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I support and honor the troops. My father is a veteran of World War II and my brother is a veteran of the Vietnam War. The National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division is made up of brave New Yorkers—I am deeply concerned for their safety. Which is why I was shocked and appalled when some photos straight from the 42nd I.D. in Tikrit were given to me recently.

Despite the billions already allocated for Iraq, these photos show humvees with metal sheets slapped on to their sides like makeshift armor; with empty oxygen canisters being used to anchor the soldiers' weapons; with junkyard quality doors. You can view these pictures for yourself on my website.

I want to know, why hasn't every cent we have appropriated gone to properly equip the troops until they are all safe and secure? Mr. Speaker, the lack of equipment for our troops is the most awful example of misspending of the money we have already allocated, but it is not the only one.

And then there are billions of dollars that we either can't find or that were spent unwisely. The Coalition Provisional Authority completely lost \$9 billion in Iraq. And now we have reports that the administration actually assisted Haliburton in concealing at least more than \$100 million in overcharges out of its \$7 billion in no-bid contracts.

We must have stronger oversight. The administration should be able to tell the American taxpayer what is going on with its money in Iraq. There should be open and honest accounting. But even though previous spending bills set out specific requirements for reporting how the money is being spent and for an estimate of future costs, we have yet to receive either. How do mismanagement, poor decisions and no-bid contracts help our troops?

Certainly, there are parts of this supplemental spending bill that I strongly support. The \$650 million for tsunami relief and reconstruction is very important, and my amendment that was accepted will designate \$3 million specifically for the UNFPA's efforts to aid maternal health in the tsunami-stricken areas. I also support the provisions to aid the peace in the Sudan, as well as development assistance for the West Bank and Gaza.

Still, it is extremely troubling that we cannot get an honest accounting of the billions we are spending on this war. I'm deeply disappointed that the Republican House voted down an earlier amendment that would have ensured proper accounting of the money we spend. This administration needs to implement oversight and accountability, but it fails to do so. Before I can vote for another enormous expenditure of the American taxpayers' money for this war, I must be convinced that this administration will keep tabs on the money and make sure it benefits our troops. Doing so is good for the war effort, and it's good for the troops.

We cannot continue to hemorrhage the hard-earned money of American taxpayers

when the troops need it, and we need it here at home. There is no end in sight to the loss of lives on all sides, and this administration still has no answers.

## RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF DR. FRANK SPLITT

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the work of Dr. Frank Splitt, a McCormick Faculty Fellow at Northwestern University. As a member of The Drake Group, Dr. Splitt has worked to bring attention to the need for reform in college athletics. I would like to submit this article, "Why Congress Should Review Policies that Facilitate the Growth and Corruption of Big-Time College Sports" for the review of my colleagues. I hope that during this session of Congress we can begin to work to improve the system for the sake of our athletes, teachers, fans, and entire educational system.

"Why Congress Should Review Policies that Facilitate the Growth and Corruption of Big-Time College Sports" by Dr. Frank Splitt

Despite many wakeup calls and warnings over the years, the situation with big-time college sports is much worse than many could ever have imagined. Two questions loom large: What's going on? And, where are the people who are willing to speak the truth about the academic corruption spawned by the college-sports entertainment colossus and to do something about it? To find the answer to the first question, one need only look at the usual suspect—money. Big money, together with greed, avid sports fans, an apathetic public, and governmental policies make college sports a lucrative and growing tax-free business enterprise. Key enablers for the continuing growth of this business are higher education professionals in a state of denial over the unflattering reality of academic corruption, a relatively ineffectual NCAA, and facilitating government policies involving privacy law and the subsidy of athletic departments and favorable tax treatment of related projects.

The Drake Group (TDG), a grass-roots faculty organization, provides a partial answer to the second question. It works on the premise that college sports aren't themselves evil, but rather, it's the related academic corruption that should be exposed and eliminated. TDG has sponsored the publication of two papers on college-sports reform, "Reclaiming Academic Primacy in Higher Education," and a sequel, "The Faculty-Driven Movement to Reform Big-Time College Sports," see [www.ece.northwestern.edu/EXTERNAL/Splitt/](http://www.ece.northwestern.edu/EXTERNAL/Splitt/). The first paper served as another wakeup call to university presidents, trustees, administrators and faculties. The sequel focused on a TDG initiative to help restore academic integrity by working to change the Family Educational Rights and Privacy of 1974 (FERPA)—also known as the Buckley Amendment.

As an unintended consequence of the Buckley Amendment, evidence of academic corruption and shenanigans in big-time college sports are hidden from real public scrutiny and the NCAA and schools (via waivers) can exploit and control their athletes while only releasing news favorable to themselves.